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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/825,500	04/15/2004	Chao Chen	555255012556	8568

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Lorri W. Cooper, Esq.
Jones Day
901 Lakeside Avenue/North Point
Cleveland, OH 44114

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, KEVIN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2629

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/825,500

Applicant(s)

CHEN ET AL.

Examiner

Kevin M. Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 April 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 6-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 April 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/15/04, 4/11/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-4, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rasanen (US 6,542,091).

3. As to claim 1, figure 2 of Rasanen teaches a keyboard comprising:

a plurality of keys associated with alphanumeric characters including the letters A-Z and at least the numbers 1-9, said keys being split into a left side section (1,2,3,4,5) and a right side section (6,7,8,9,0),

wherein the left side section (1,2,3,4,5) is oriented at least partially above the right side section (4) to define an upper section (4) corresponding to the left side section and a lower section (5) corresponding to the right side section (5),

or the right side section (6,7,8,9,0) is oriented at least partially above the left side section (7) to define an upper section (7) corresponding to the right side section (0) and a lower section (6) corresponding to the left side section (6).

As to claim 2, figure 2 of Rasanen teaches the keyboard of claim 1, wherein all of the keys of the upper section (1,2,3,4) are positioned above all of the keys of the lower section (5,6).

As to claim 3, figure 2 of Rasanen teaches the keyboard of claim 1, wherein part of the upper section (4) vertically overlaps part of the lower section (5).

As to claim 4, figure 2 of Rasanen teaches the keyboard of claim 1, wherein part of the upper section (32,34,36,38,40) transversely overlaps part of the lower section (1,2,3).

As to claim 16, the keyboard of claim 1, wherein at least some of the plurality of keys are further associated with at least one of symbols or functions, whereas Rasanen discusses in col. 7, lines 50-58.

As to claim 17, the keyboard of claim 1, further comprising a thumb wheel coupled to the keyboard, whereas Rasanen discloses a thumb disk 50, col. 23, lines 28-33.

As to claim 19, Rasanen teaches the keyboard of claim 1, further comprising at least one key associated with the caps function (in key 6, fig. 2).

As to claim 20, the keyboard of claim 19, wherein the at least one key associated with the caps function comprises a first caps key and a second caps key, with the first caps key being associated with the upper section and the second caps key being associated with the lower section, whereas figure 2 of Rasanen shows a first caps key in key 9, and a second caps key in key 6.

As to claim 22, figure 3 of Rasanen teaches a mobile communication device comprising: a housing having a face; and the keyboard of claim 1 associated with the face of the housing.

As to claim 25, table 1 of Rasanen teaches a method for inputting alphanumeric characters into a mobile communication device, comprising: holding a mobile communication device according to claim 22 with two hands such that the thumbs of the hands align with keys on the keyboard; utilizing a thumb of one hand to enter key strokes on the left side section of the keyboard; and utilizing a thumb of the other hand to enter key strokes on the right side section of the keyboard, wherein one of the thumbs is positioned above the other thumb on the face of the housing.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 6-8 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rasanen in view of Lindeman (US 2003/0078069).

As to claim 6, Rasanen teaches all of the claimed limitation of claim 1, except wherein the upper section comprises at least three rows and five columns of keys, and the lower section comprises at least three rows and five columns of keys.

Figure 4 of Lindeman teaches the upper section (104) comprises at least three rows and five columns of keys, and the lower section (102) comprises at least three rows and five columns of keys.

As to claim 7, figure 6 of Lindeman teaches the keyboard of claim 6, wherein the five columns of the upper section align longitudinally with the five columns of the lower section.

As to claim 8, figure 3 of Lindeman teaches the keyboard of claim 6, wherein the five columns of the upper section are offset longitudinally from the five columns of the lower section.

As to claim 18, the keyboard of claim 1, further comprising a key associated with a "send" function, a key associated with an "end" function, and at least one key associated with a "shift" function, whereas the combination of Rasanen and Lindeman discusses in col. 8, lines 36-67 and paragraph 36, respectively.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Rasanen to have the upper section (104) comprises at least three rows and five columns of keys, and the lower section (102) comprises at least three rows and five columns of keys as taught by Lindeman, because this would be accessible in an open position to perform one function and can be folded into a closed position in order to reduce the size and perform a separate, second function (paragraph 5 of Lindeman).

6. Claims 9, 15, 23 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rasanen in view of Lindeman, and further in view of Lee et al (US 2002/0190957 hereinafter Lee).

As to claim 9, the combination of Rasanen and Lindeman teaches all of the claimed limitation of claim 1, except wherein the left side section of keys comprises a

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first row associated with characters "Q", "W", "E", "R", and "T", a second row associated with characters "A", "S", "D", "F", and "G", and a third row associated with characters "Z", "X", "C", and "V"; and the right side section comprises a first row associated with characters "Y", "U", "I", "O", and "P", a second row associated with characters "H", "J", "K", and "L", and a third row associated with characters "B", "N", and "M".

Figure 1a of Lee teaches the left side section (e.g. left orientation keys) of keys comprises a first row associated with characters "Q", "W", "E", "R", and "T", a second row associated with characters "A", "S", "D", "F", and "G", and a third row associated with characters "Z", "X", "C", and "V"; and the right side section (e.g. right orientation keys) comprises a first row associated with characters "Y", "U", "I", "O", and "P", a second row associated with characters "H", "J", "K", and "L", and a third row associated with characters "B", "N", and "M".

As to claim 15, figure 1a of Lee discloses the keyboard of claim 9, wherein the number "0" is associated with a key in one of the left side section or the right side section.

As to claim 23, figure 3 of Rasanen teaches a mobile communication device comprising: a housing (40) having a face; and the keyboard of claim 9 associated with the face of the housing.

As to claim 26, table 1 of Rasanen teaches a method for inputting alphanumeric characters into a mobile communication device, comprising: holding a mobile communication device according to claim 23 with two hands such that the thumbs of the hands align with keys on the keyboard; utilizing a thumb of one hand to enter key

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strokes on the left side section of the keyboard; and utilizing a thumb of the other hand to enter key strokes on the right side section of the keyboard, wherein one of the thumbs is positioned above the other thumb on the face of the housing, as discussed in col. 4 and col. 5.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Rasanen and Lindeman to have the left side section (e.g. left orientation keys) of keys comprises a first row associated with characters "Q", "W", "E", "R", and "T", a second row associated with characters "A", "S", "D", "F", and "G", and a third row associated with characters "Z", "X", "C", and "V"; and the right side section (e.g. right orientation keys) comprises a first row associated with characters "Y", "U", "I", "O", and "P", a second row associated with characters "H", "J", "K", and "L", and a third row associated with characters "B", "N", and "M" as disclosed by Lee, because this would employ in different kinds of portable information system such as a cellular phone, easily input desired texts through the keyboard apparatus even while holding the combined portable information system with his/her own hand, be conveniently inputted without need to alternate the configuration of the keyboard displayed onto the touch screen device whenever the user intends to input them (paragraphs 41 through 43 of Lee).

7. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rasanen in view of Lindeman in view of Lee, and further in view of Ho et al (US 6,628,961, hereinafter Ho).

The combination of Rasanen, Lindeman and Lee teaches all of the limitation of claim 1, except wherein the left side section of keys is associated with numbers 1-9, with the "1", "2", and "3" being associated with the first row, the "4", "5", and "6" being associated with the second row, and the "7", "8", and "9" being associated with the third row.

Figure 3 of Ho teaches the left side section of keys is associated with numbers 1-9, with the "1", "2", and "3" being associated with the first row, the "4", "5", and "6" being associated with the second row, and the "7", "8", and "9" being associated with the third row.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Rasanen, Lindeman and Lee to have Figure 3 showing the left side section of keys is associated with numbers 1-9, with the "1", "2", and "3" being associated with the first row, the "4", "5", and "6" being associated with the second row, and the "7", "8", and "9" being associated with the third row as disclosed by Ho, this would never be limited by the complicated input method of the handset (col. 6, lines 38-41 of Ho).

8. Claims 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rasanen in view of Lindeman in view of Lee in view of Ho, and further in view of Capps (US 2003/0073414).

As to claim 11, the combination of Rasanen, Lindeman, Lee and Ho teaches all of the limitation of claim 1, except for a key associated with the space function and a

key associated with the number "0". As modified by Capps, Capps conventionally discloses a key in which a space is a "0" (paragraph 16).

Claim 12, Capps conventionally discloses space and "0" are designated the common key.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Rasanen, Lindeman, Lee and Ho to have a key in which a space is a "0" as conventionally disclosed by Capps, because this would be the conventional keyboard of the mobile phone.

9. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rasanen in view of Lindeman in view of Lee, and further in view of Grant (US 5,119,078).

The combination of Rasanen, Lindeman, and Lee teaches all of the limitation of claim 1, except for wherein the right side section of keys is associated with numbers 1-9, with the "1", "2", and "3" being associated with the first row, the "4", "5", and "6" being associated with the second row, and the "7", "8", and "9" being associated with the third row.

Figure 7 of Grant discloses the right side section of keys is associated with numbers 1-9, with the "1", "2", and "3" being associated with the first row, the "4", "5", and "6" being associated with the second row, and the "7", "8", and "9" being associated with the third row.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Rasanen, Lindeman, and Lee to have

figure 7 showing the right side section of keys is associated with numbers 1-9, with the "1", "2", and "3" being associated with the first row, the "4", "5", and "6" being associated with the second row, and the "7", "8", and "9" being associated with the third row as disclosed by Grant, because this would be the conventional V-shaped keyboard.

10. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rasanen in view of Lindeman in view of Lee in view of Grant, and further in view of Capps.

The combination of Rasanen, Lindeman, Lee and Grant discloses all of the limitation of claim 1, except for a key associated with the space function and a key associated with the number "0". As modified by Capps, Capps conventionally discloses a key in which a space is a "0" (paragraph 16).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Rasanen, Lindeman, Lee and Grant to have a key in which a space is a "0" as conventionally disclosed by Capps, because this would be the conventional keyboard of the mobile phone.

11. Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Miwa (US 5,626,428).

Figure 9 of Miwa teaches a mobile communication device comprising: a housing (40) having a face; and a keyboard associated with the face of the housing, wherein the keyboard includes a plurality of keys associated with both alphabetic and numeric characters arranged in a standard alphabetic format selected from a group consisting of QWERTY (abstract), and the keyboard is split into a left side section (an upper level)

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and a right side section (a lower level), with one of the left or right side sections being disposed at least partially above the other section on the face of the housing.

12. Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miwa in view of Ukita et al (US 6,933,926, hereinafter Ukita).

Miwa teaches all of the limitation of claim 21, except for two hands such that the thumbs of the hands align with keys on the keyboard; utilizing a thumb of one hand to enter key strokes on the left side section of the keyboard; and utilizing a thumb of the other hand to enter key strokes on the right side section of the keyboard, wherein one of the thumbs is positioned above the other thumb on the face of the housing. As modified by Ukita, Ukita discusses in column 4 and column 5.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Miwa to have the teaching in column 4 and column 5 as discussed by Ukita, because this would be smoothly operated by users who are not familiar with the same type of device (col. 1, lines 44-48 of Ukita).

13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

14. Claim 5 is allowed over prior art.

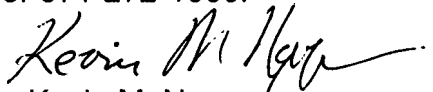
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin M. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-7697. The examiner can normally be reached on MON-THU from 9:00-6:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard A. Hjerpe can be reached on 571-272-7691. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Kevin M. Nguyen
Examiner
Art Unit 2629

KMN